



## Summer Newsletter 2022



It's been a funny old season of weather with long periods of drought and some torrential rain, but all our areas have been looking good. The Community Bed has been much admired and has been 'our crowning glory'. Thanks go to Craigdu Primary School teachers and children for pulling that off in time for the Jubilee celebrations! Our photo with the Queen (who

was borrowed from Gianfranco) and our volunteers even made the front page of the Beautiful Scotland Newsletter. The floral fountains were planted up in the Jubilee colours of purple, grey and white, while the rest of the planters are red, white and blue.

The Antonine Garden is currently wowing us with some vibrant oranges and reds.



## Volunteer Afternoon Tea



At long last Milngavie and Bloom could host a social event for the first time in over two years. 60 Clean Sweepers and Gardeners enjoyed a **Volunteer Afternoon Tea** in St Andrew's Church Hall on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July with catering from Posh Tarts, Prosecco and bunting! It was just wonderful to be together in our summer finery, meet friends old and new, and chat about all our work and areas we look after.

## Sunflower Stall at Classic Car Event



During Milngavie Week in June we held a Sunflower Stall at the Classic Car Event. Diane and her helpers put together a stall with donated sunflowers for children to grow, plants and cards for sale, sunflower cakes, and children's craft activities. The sun shone brightly and the precinct was very busy and we made a profit of just over £300.



We also took part that weekend in the **Milngavie Week Flower Festival** in St Andrew's Church. Money was raised for Water Aid and flowers were purchased from Ofe.

### Floral Walks

We displayed our new **Floral Walks leaflet** and led 3 floral walks later that week on a very wet day. Leaflets are available in the library, station, Lillie Art Gallery, Gavin's Mill and Tesco and on our website.



## Gavin's Mill Planter Workshop



Diane put a lot of planning into a planting workshop at Gavin's Mill which was enjoyed by a small group, two of whom want to join us as volunteers in future. Here we see Heather Lindsay and Thelma Will giving hints and tips. Heather is our Volunteer Convenor and has led prospective volunteers on several floral walks with a coffee stop, to get to know them and introduce them to all that we do so they can find a role they enjoy. We've been starting back to work with community groups again helping the Beavers plant up sunflowers at the front of the Scout Hall and even held a Pop up Plant Sale in the village on a recent work day and trialled out our new gazebo.

## Big Clean Sweep – Sat 30<sup>th</sup> April

Sheila MacLachlan is our hardworking Clean Sweep Convenor. She has a band of dedicated clean sweepers and works with many community groups and EDC to keep Milngavie free of litter. She organised a Big Clean Sweep and was delighted to also get help from 13 members of the Lochiel Cub Pack (part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Milngavie Scout Group) and their leaders. They did an amazing job!



## Friendship through Flowers



On the 21<sup>st</sup> June the Life President of Milngavie Flower Club handed over a very generous cheque of £1,000 to Douglas Cameron as part of their dispersal of funds after closing. In the autumn we will be purchasing new replacement Amberol barrels for the village and branding them with their motto 'Friendship through Flowers' at their request.

## In memory of John McCourtney

We will also be branding some of our new barrels in memory of John McCourtney, our first 'bowser boy'. John was born on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1943 in Glasgow. He competed for Great Britain, in wrestling, in the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City in the Men's Featherweight, Freestyle. In 2017 Milngavie Week celebrations, MiB had a competition for a garden in a container. This was mainly to encourage children, but John submitted his creation of a garden on top of a bowser, complete with running water and won a cup for his efforts.





John in the Italian Garden in summer 2021. As always, he was sockless. His trademark. He always said he didn't wear socks as skin is waterproof. Sadly missed.

## A Big Welcome

Eric Nelson has joined Jim Walker and Campbell Rutherford in the Watering Team. They are a wee bit camera shy!

Craig Kennedy is joining the committee by stepping into the role of Calendar Production and is also willing to help with the watering which this summer has been challenging at times.



*"I first became aware of the great work done by everyone at MIB when we moved to Milngavie in 2016 and saw first-hand how well they kept the village tidy and "in bloom". I was keen to get involved & having retired at the end of 2021, was able to grab my litter picker and trowel and join in! I would describe myself as an "enthusiastic" gardener but have learned a lot from all the team, over the last few months, who have made me very welcome."*

*"I'm delighted to have been asked to join the committee and look forward to helping and supporting the fantastic work MIB does for Milngavie."*

We have 2 vacancies on the committee from September. One for the **Social Media Convenor** post of keeping our noticeboards, website and facebook updated. The other is someone who likes to organise our **Hospitality & Events**. You would not necessarily need to be a gardener or clean sweeper to do these jobs and further details are on our website. It

might be an opportunity to ask around amongst our volunteers, friends and family. An informal chat is welcomed with our Chair, Tim Rhead.

*Finally do join us for our AGM on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September at St Joseph's Church from 7- 9pm. Drinks and nibbles provided.*